

Louisiana Office of Public Health Laboratories	
Test Name	Detection of Total Coliforms and <i>E. coli</i> in Potable, Dairy, Bottled and Vending Water Samples
PHL Location	Amite Laboratory, Central Laboratory
CPT Code	N/A
Synonyms	Colilert 18, Colilert 24, Colilert test, potable water test, MMO-MUG Presence Absence; Chromogenic Fluorogenic Substrate Method; SM9223
Brief Description of Test	Primary water test that simultaneously detects total coliforms and <i>E. coli</i> using Defined Substrate Technology.
Possible Results	Total coliforms & <i>E. coli</i> “Present” or “Not found”.
Reference Range	Total coliforms & <i>E. coli</i> “Not found”.
Specimen Type	Potable Water; Dairy Water, Bottled Water; Vending Water.
Specimen Container(s):	<p>Sterile, disposable 100 ml Nasco Whirl-Pak bag containing a 10 mg sodium thiosulfate tablet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only containers QCed and supplied by the laboratory are suitable for use. DO NOT purchase privately. <p>Bottled water - submit in commercial packaging.</p>
Minimum volume accepted:	100 ml
Collection Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potable water samples are collected in sterile, approved containers, containing sodium thiosulfate. The sampling container must remain closed to maintain sterility until the time that the sample is collected. When the sample is collected, ample air space (at 1 inch) must be left at the top of the container to facilitate mixing of the sample by shaking. When using the 100 ml Nasco bag, the bag should be filled to the 100ml fill line mark on the bag and leave at least 1 inch of air space at top of container. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whirl bag to close. Fold tab ends down. Do not twist tabs together.
Storage and Transport Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store refrigerated & transport sample(s) in clean cooler(s) with ice packs (ice is not recommended due to melting and possible cross contamination). Submitters are encouraged to hold drinking water samples at <10°C during transit.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maximum holding time is 30 hours. • Dairy water samples must be 0 – 4.5°C upon receipt in laboratory. • Bottled water need not be refrigerated or cooled, and has no maximum holding time.
Causes for Rejection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample > 30 hours old. • Frozen water sample. • No sample ID. • Unsatisfactory collection container. • Insufficient amount of sample. • Sample container leaking. • Sample information form not complete.
Limitations of the Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not suitable for marine water or any sample altered by any pre-enrichment or concentration. . • Not suitable for source water, surface water, or wastewater as these require enumeration of organisms.
Interfering Substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excessive Chlorine. • Samples containing humic material with innate color.
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Idexx Laboratories Colilert, Colilert 18 package inserts. • LA DHH-OPH Laboratory Services SOP DOLSOPDWM-01 Chromogenic Fluorogenic Substrate Method.
Additional Information	<p>Complete a Lab 8 Laboratory Request and Report Form.</p> <p>The following is required Lab 8 information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample sequence #s • Project Code • Name of Supply • Collected by (name) • PWS ID • Date/Time Collected • Type of source water
Release Date	11/2013
<p>Warning: If you have printed a copy of this information please be advised that the Louisiana Office of Public Health Laboratories website and methods are updated on a regular basis. Please check the on-line version of this document to ensure you are relying on the most recent release.</p>	